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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC

Unlike most other advanced countries, customers of ISP's in the U.S. pay higher rates for slower service, which is often throttled. It's a great irony that the land of Sillicon Valley is a straggler when it comes to getting online. This is because other countries have more competition, while we have virtual monopolies in most markets. And in order not to buy from these monopolies, which provide notoriously bad customer service and support, one has to either buy incredibly slow service or pay a higher premium (or both). Internet access is increasingly becoming seen as a right, but it's a right that is less democratically accessible than it ought to be. One of the highest rated services, in Chattanooga, is provided by a locally owned public service, one created due to lack of access. It's pretty damn fast, too. In Northern California, I pay more for not using Comcast or AT&T because of their terrible service, and yet they are the two main options. It's odd when you live in a country that promotes markets and competitions, and yet allows so little of either. This should be reversed. I recall a time when there were many options and prices were competitive. I'd love to return to those conditions. After all, it wasn't that long ago. So I now give my money to a competitive service provider that guarantees my privacy and no throttling. It's a bit slower and more expensive, but I do it not only because those are essential virtues to me, but also because I think internet monopolies are anathema to the American way. I hope you'll agree.

Wesley Swedlow